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Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Douglas W. Johnson

Serial No.: 10/802,437

Filed: March 17, 2004

Docket No.: 10378US01

Title: TAPE GUIDE DECREASING TRANSVERSE MOVEMENT OF DATA STORAGE TAPE AT HIGH FREQUENCIES

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7.

1-7. (Canceled)

8.(Previously Presented) A data storage tape system comprising:
a read/write head configured to read from or write to a data storage tape moving relative to the read/write head along a tape path;
a first tape guide along the tape path immediately adjacent the read/write head; and
a second tape guide along the tape path immediately adjacent the read/write head opposite the first tape guide, the first and second tape guides configured to support the data storage tape near the read/write head;
wherein at least one of the first and second tape guides includes a tape interface portion forming a plurality of concentric grooves;
and further wherein upon longitudinal movement of the data storage tape across the first and second tape guides, the first and second tape guides limit a spectral content of the data storage tape lateral movement measured at the read/write head to less than 0.1 μm at lateral movement frequencies between 50 and 500 cycles/meter.

9.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the first and second tape guides is a rotating guide and the radial runout of each of the rotating guides is less than 0.5 mil.

10.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the first and second tape guides is configured and positioned to have intimate contact with the data storage tape as the data storage tape passes over the respective tape guide.

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11.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein both of the first and second tape guides are configured and positioned to have intimate contact with the data storage tape as the data storage tape passes over the respective tape guide.

12.(Previously Presented) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the plurality of substantially concentric grooves is configured to remove air from between the data storage tape and the outer surface of the corresponding tape guide.

13.(Previously Presented) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein a center of the first tape guide and the second tape guide are each spaced from a center of the read/write head less than twice a width of the data storage tape.

14.(Previously Presented) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the first tape guide interacts with the data storage tape to define a degree of wrap greater than 30°.

15.(Previously Presented) That data storage tape system of claim 14, wherein the second tape guide interacts with the data storage tape to define a degree of wrap greater than 30°.

16.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the first and second tape guides are maintained in a data storage tape cartridge.

17.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the first and second tape guides are maintained in a data storage tape drive.

18.(Previously Presented) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the first and second tape guides decrease the magnitude of longitudinal stress waves in the data storage tape traveling between the first and second tape guides.

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19.(Original) The data storage tape system of claim 8, further comprising:

a first collateral tape guide spaced from the first tape guide opposite the read/write head;

and

a second collateral tape guide spaced from the second tape guide opposite the read/write head;

wherein the first and second collateral tape guides limit the amplitude of tape transverse movement across the first and second collateral tape guides, respectively.

20.(Canceled)

21.(Previously Presented) The data storage tape system of claim 8, wherein the system is characterized by the absence of an additional guide along the tape path between the first tape guide and the read/write head and the absence of an additional guide along the tape path between the second tape guide and the read/write head.